

**REMARKS**

The Specification has been amended to correct minor clerical errors. The Abstract has been amended to remove reference numerals. Claims 1-12 are pending in this application.

**Conclusion**

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

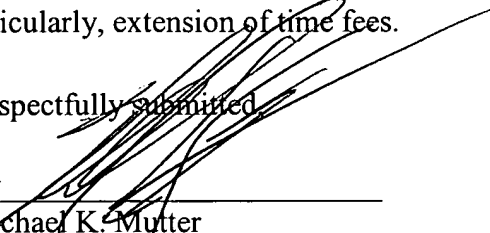
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael K. Mutter (Reg. No. 29,680 ) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 18, 2005

MKM/nl

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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Attachment: Abstract of the Disclosure